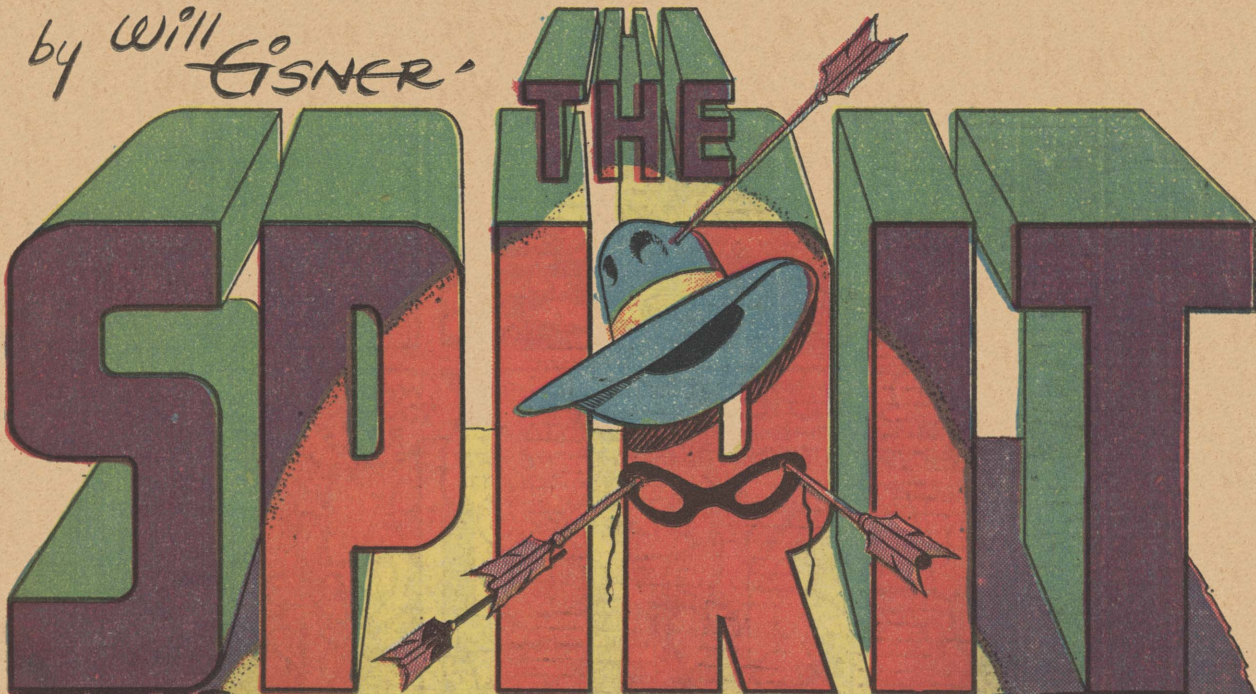


by Will Eisner



TO SOME, LIFE IS A BRIGHT  
ADVENTURE... TO OTHERS, IT IS  
FRUSTRATION, DESPAIR.. BUT TO  
SOME FEW, LIFE IS A CLASH OF WITS..  
A DUEL OF DESTINIES.. A GAME  
WHOSE ONLY RULE IS WINNER-TAKE-  
ALL... WITH DEATH TO HOLD THE  
STAKES !!

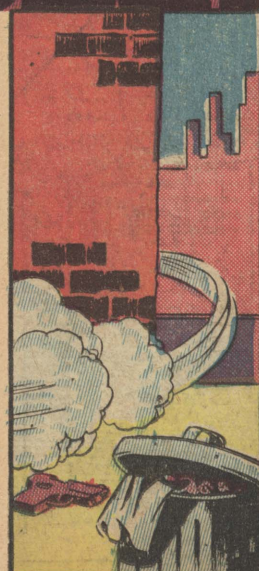
NIGHT OVER CENTRAL  
CITY..



S-SAFE! THEY DON'T  
GIVE JAKE THE JEEP  
NO SHOVIN' AROUND!  
STARIN'.. ALLUS STARIN'  
FROM SOME PLACE! NEXT  
TIME I'LL PLUG 'EM  
ON SIGHT!



I AIN'T  
SCARED..  
EEEookk!!







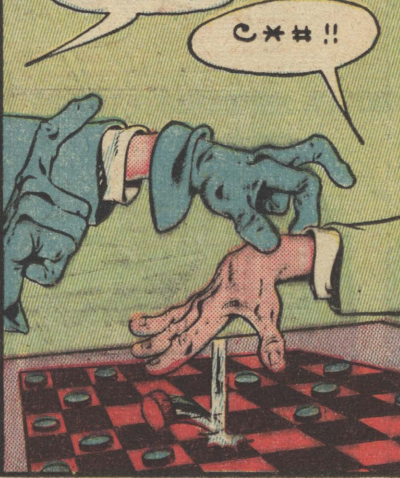
WEB COMIC  
UNIVERSE.COM



WHILE A FEW BLOCKS AWAY..



UH..UH..UH! THE RULES SAY YOU CAN'T JUMP BACKWARDS WITHOUT A KING, DOLAN!



C\*#!!

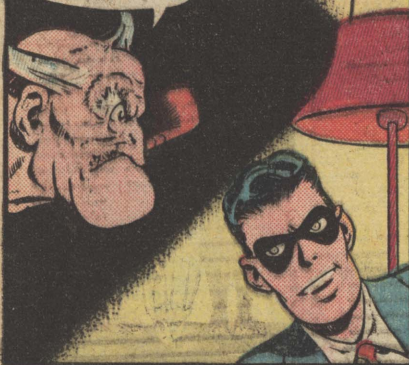
HOW CAN I CONCENTRATE ON CHECKERS? THE TOUGHEST MUGGS IN THE UNDERWORLD SCARED INTO SCREAMING MEEMIES.. AND BY WHAT?

AT LEAST YOU'RE SURE IT'S NOT YOUR POLICE FORCE..



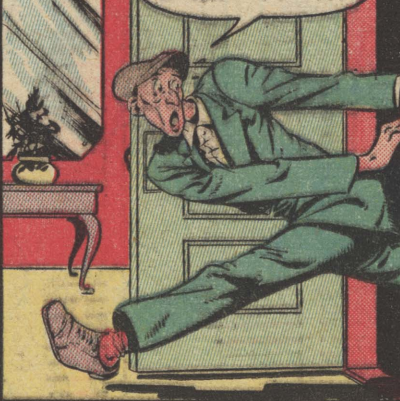
IT AIN'T FUNNY! WHEN TOUGH KILLERS GO INTO HYSTERIC'S AND THEN VANISH.. SOMETHING'S HAPPENING! BUT NOBODY'LL TALK!

I'LL BET YOU'RE JEALOUS



HEY!! JAKE, THE JEEP!

COMMISSIONER! DON'T LET 'EM GET ME, PLEASE! THEY'RE ALWAYS AROUND.. STARIN'... STARIN'!!!



WHO IS YOU SNIVELIN' RAT?

THEM! BIG BLACK MEN! GIANTS! LOCK ME UP, PLEASE! PUT ME WHERE THEY CAN'T STARE..



NO! FOR THE LOVE OF MERCY, DON'T SEND ME BACK TO THEM!!

SCRAM, YOU SLUG NUTTY SNAKE! I WOULDN'T DIRTY MY JAIL WITH THE LIKES OF YOU!

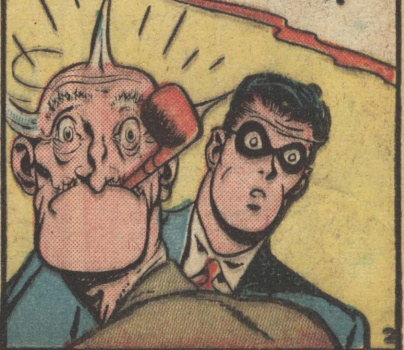


BUT, DOLAN !!

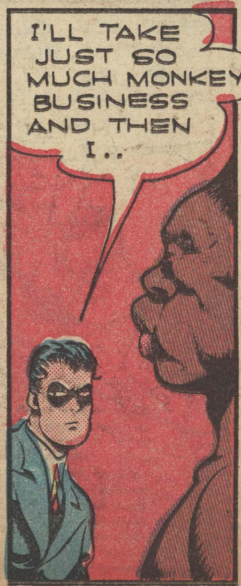
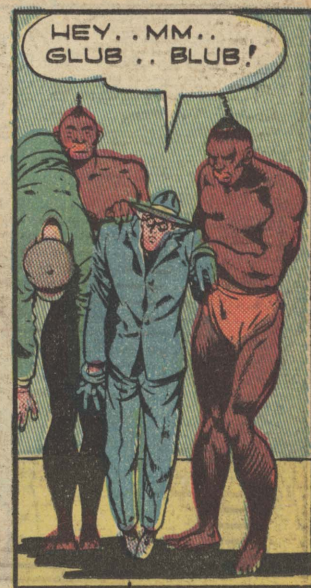
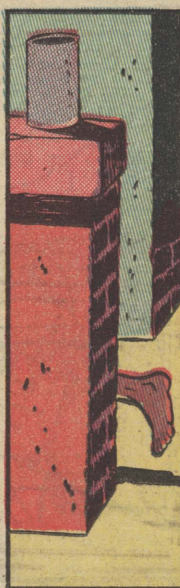
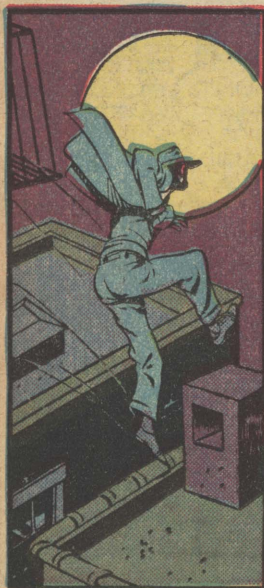
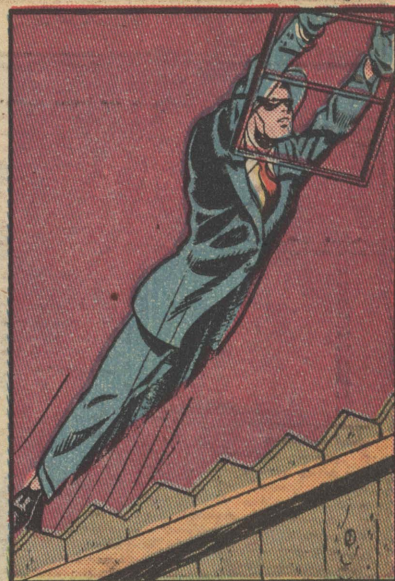
BLACK MEN.. PHOOIE!! LAST TIME WE PINCHED HIM HE KEPT EVERYBODY AWAKE ALL NIGHT WHILE HE FOUGHT ORANGE ALLIGATORS IN HIS CELL!



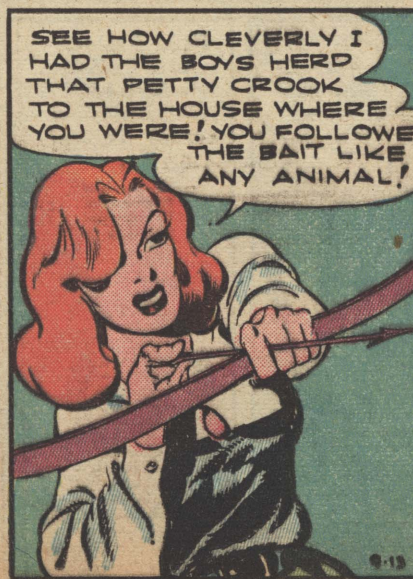
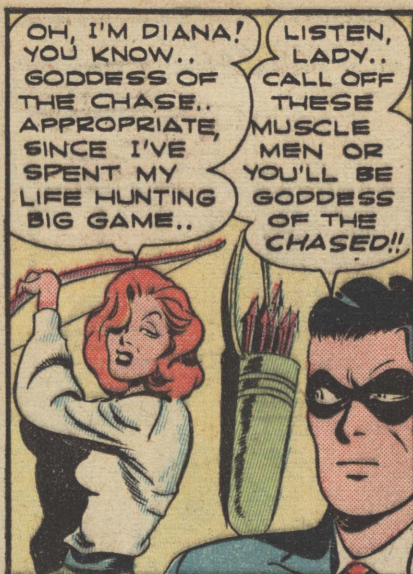
NOOOO! EEEEE!!



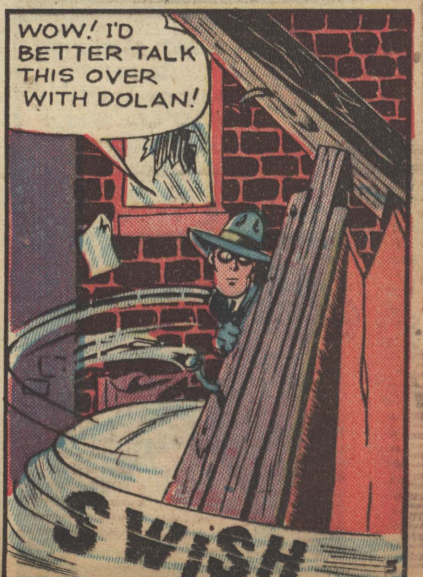
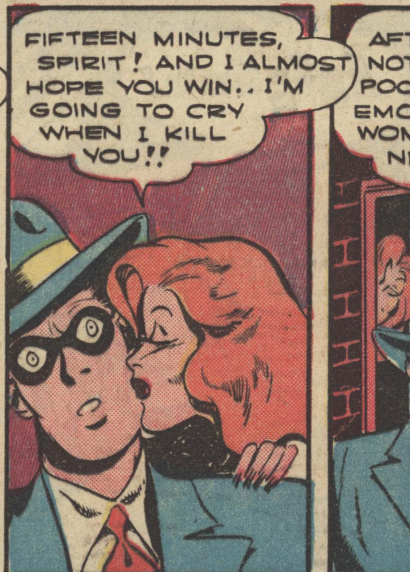
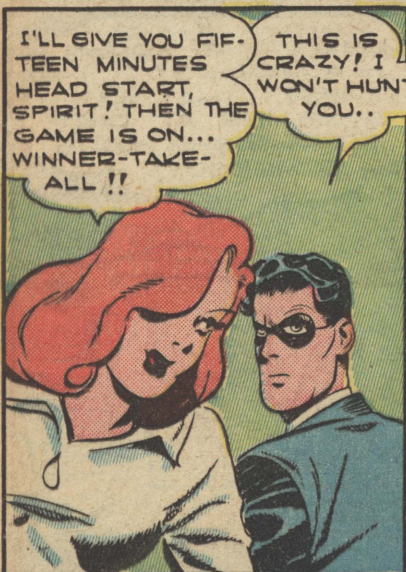
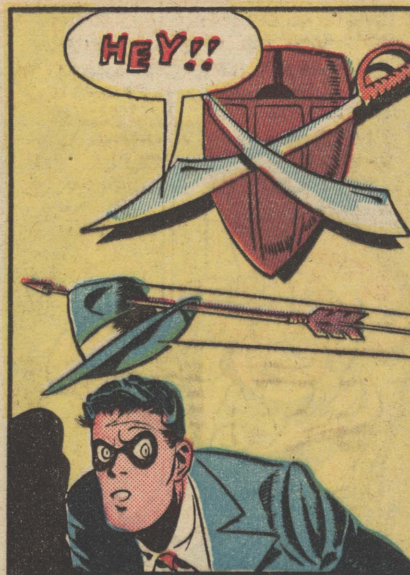












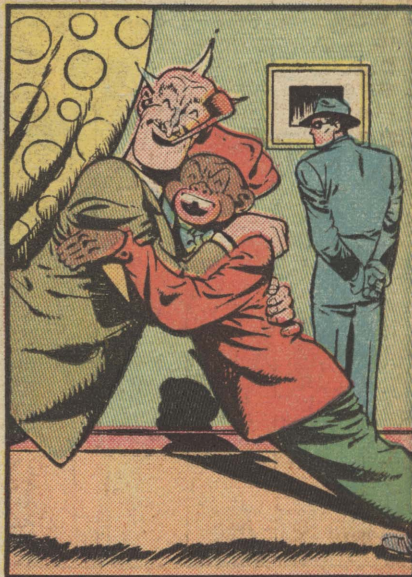


A FEW MINUTES LATER..

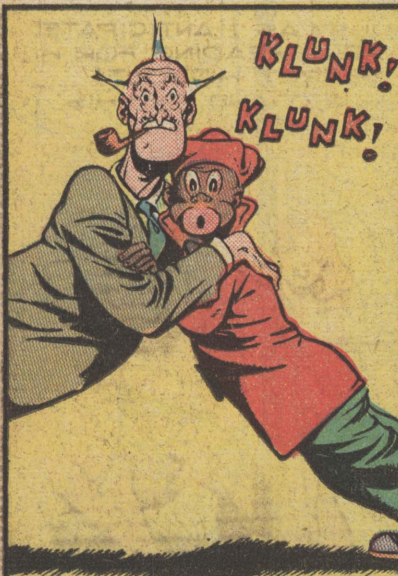
HAW! HAW!! HAW!! I HAVE TO HAND IT TO YOU, SPIRIT! YOU'VE GOT SOME IMAGINATION! HUNTED BY A CRAZY FEMALE.. HO! HO!



HEE! HEE! YO' IS DE MOS' ENTANGLIN'EST MAN WID WOMEN!



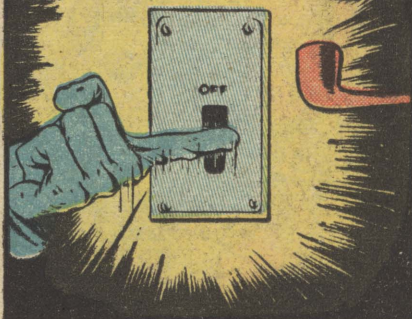
KLUNK!  
KLUNK!



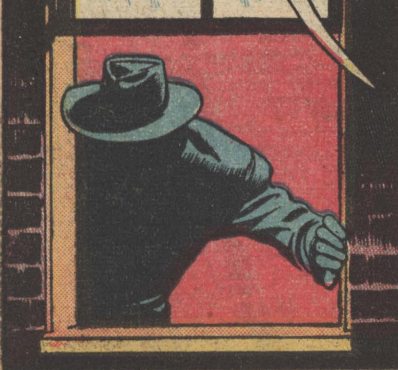
EEEEOW!



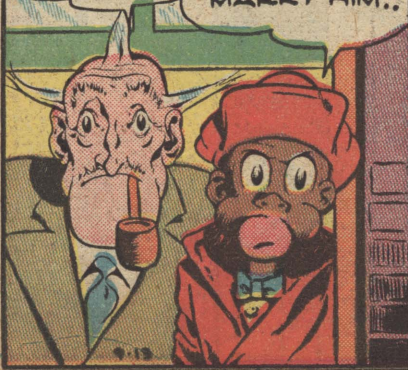
SPIRIT, THAT WOMAN IS A MENACE! I INSIST THAT YOU STOP HER AT ONCE, BEFORE SHE HURTS SOMEBODY!



OH, WELL.. IF YOU INSIST!!  
WAIT, SPIRIT! I DIDN'T MEAN IT!! YOU'LL BE KILLED!!!



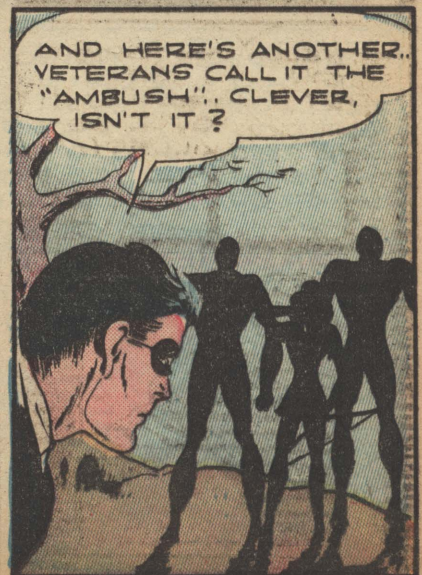
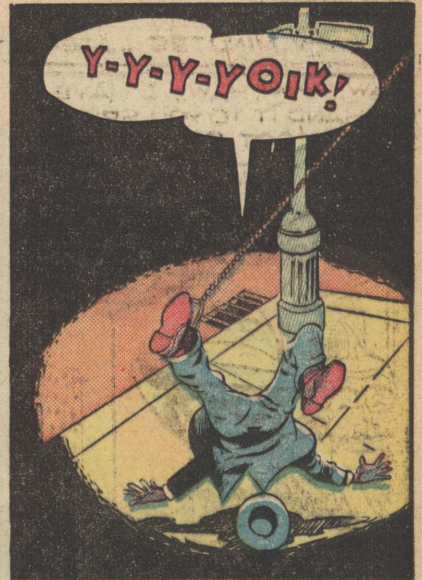
HE'S GONE! OH, EBONY.. MY BIG MOUTH HAS SENT THE SPIRIT TO HIS DOOM..  
YASSAH!! BUT IT MIGHT BE WORSE.. DAT FEMALE MIGHT BE HUNTIN' MAH SPIRIT TO MARRY HIM!!



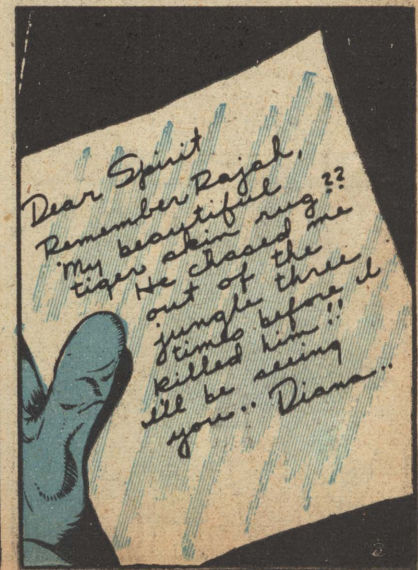
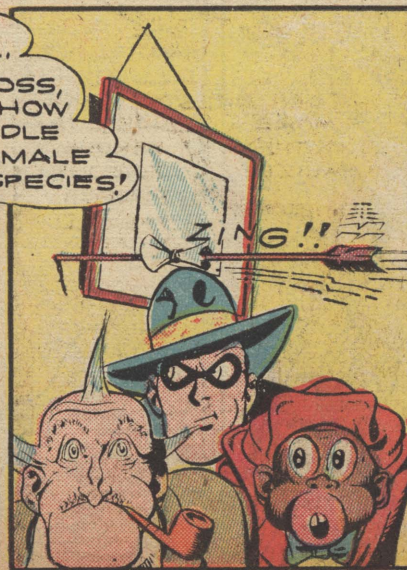
I'VE GOT TO WATCH OUT FOR TRICKS OF JUNGLE HUNTING!!! OH! OH! WHAT'S THAT??



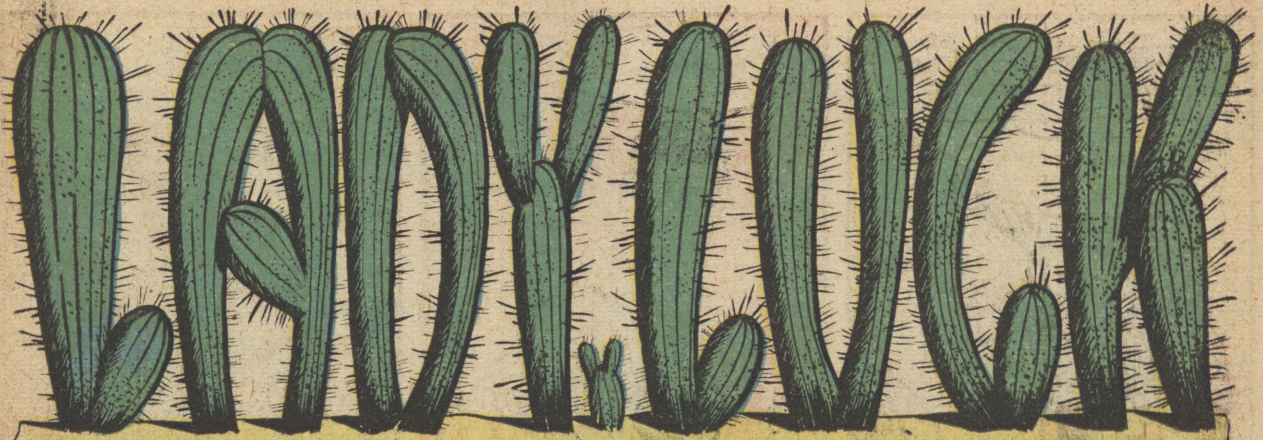












**C**ALLED IN AS CONSULTING ENGINEER TO DEVELOP A NEW RUBBER PRODUCING PROJECT, BRUCE BANKS, ARRIVES AT A MEXICAN "CRYPTOSTEGIA" PLANTATION... ACCOMPANYING HIM, HIS DEBUTANTE DAUGHTER, **BRENDA BANKS**, AND **PEECOLO**, THE CHAUFFEUR, SETTLE DOWN FOR A SHORT VACATION . . . . .

*By Klaus Nordling*



WELL, BRENDA, I HAVE TO BE OFF TO MEET SOME REPORTERS COVERING THIS PROJECT . . .



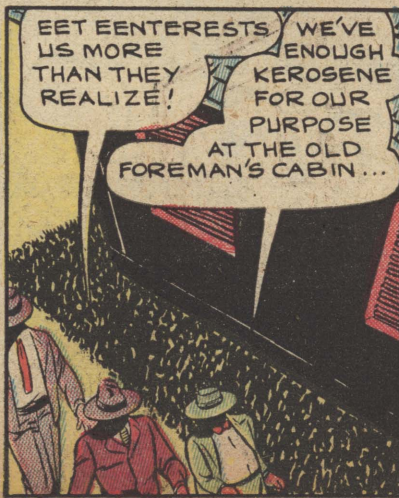
EET EES TRUE, EES EET NOT, SEÑOR BANKS, THEES CRYPTOSTEGIA BUSHES ARE PROLIFIC SOURCES OF CRUDE RUBBER ?



YES.. AND IN FOUR MONTHS, THEY ARE MATURE ENOUGH TO YIELD AN AMAZING AMOUNT OF USABLE RUBBER . . .



AND AS YOU CAN SEE, WE HAVE HERE A TRULY HUGE CROP OF BUSHES... 80 ACRES... THE YIELD WILL BE TREMENDOUS !

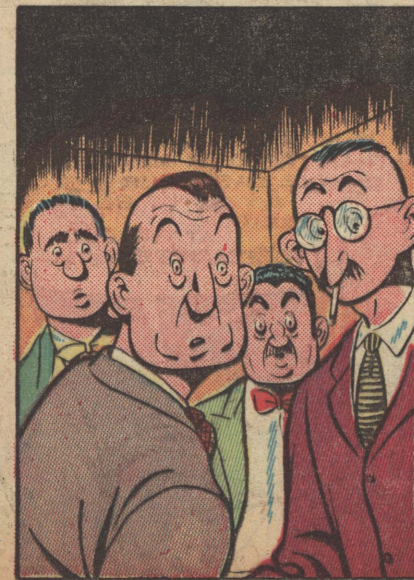
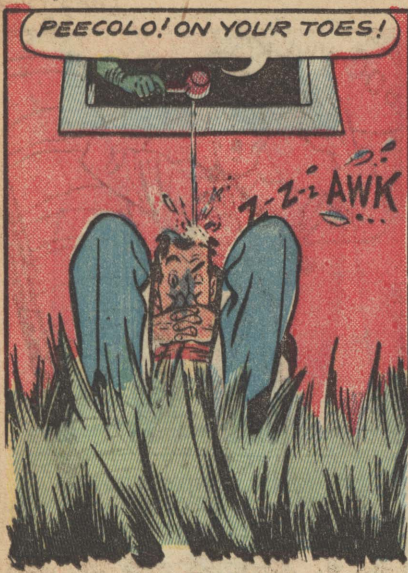


EET EENTERESTS WE'VE US MORE ENOUGH THAN THEY KEROSENE REALIZE! FOR OUR PURPOSE AT THE OLD FOREMAN'S CABIN...

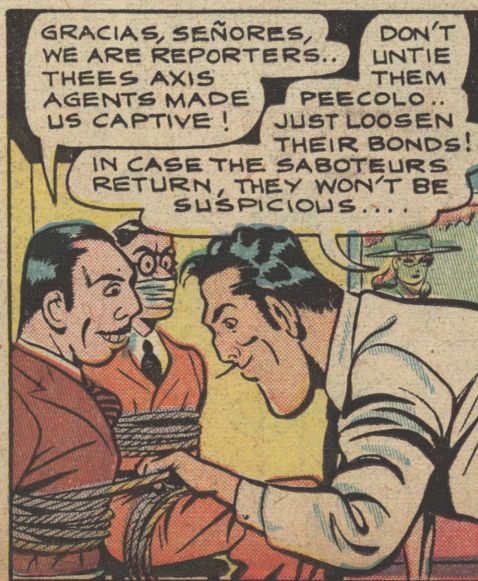
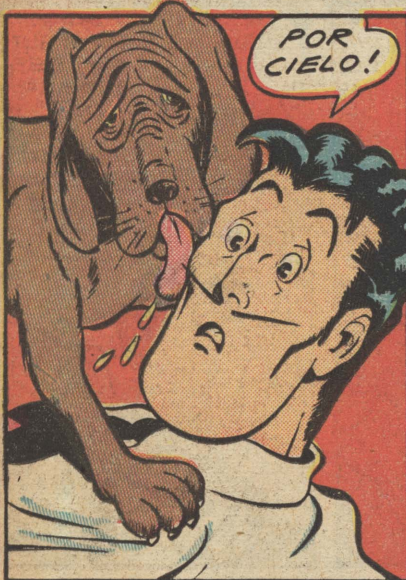
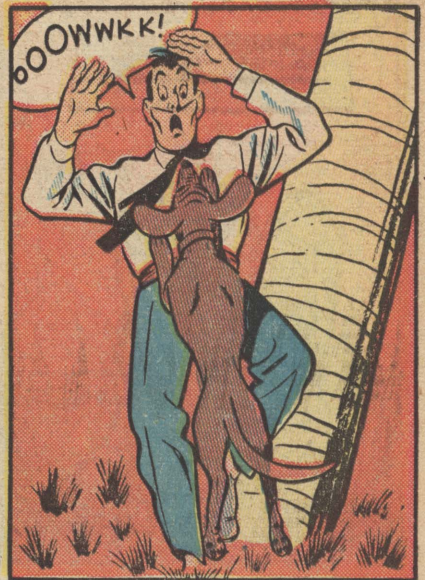


SI.. WE MUST ACT TO-DAY.. WHILE THE WIND IS RIGHT...

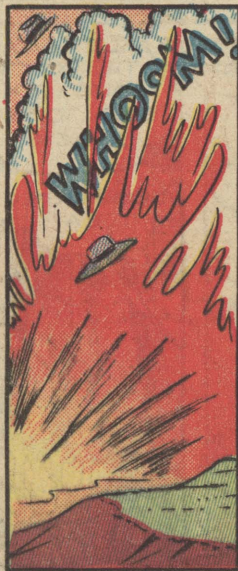
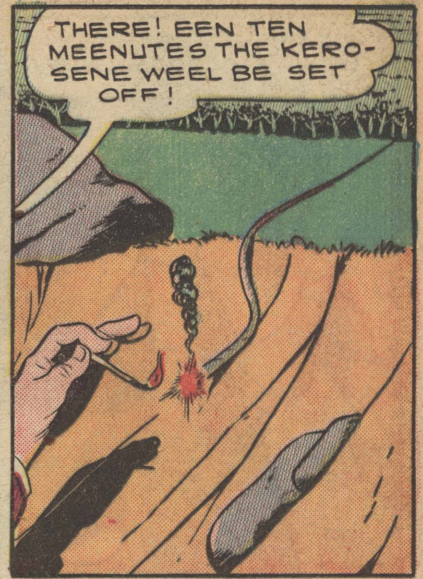














# MR. MYSTIC

by  
S.R. Powell

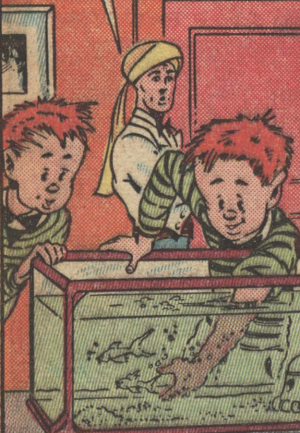


MR. MYSTIC HYPNOTIZES TWO BOYS AND TAKES THEM INTO A LAND OF CHILDHOOD MEMORIES.... WHY DON'T YOU GO ALONG?

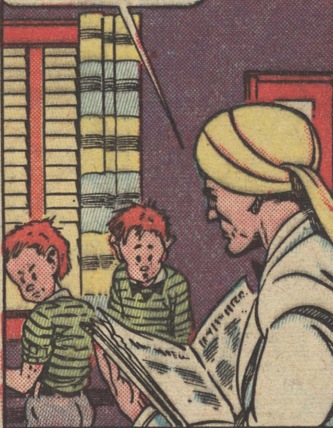
NO, GO AHEAD, CHOWDERHEAD!!! I KNOW YOUR NEPHEWS ARE TERRORS, BUT I'LL BE ABLE TO HANDLE 'EM!!... DON'T WORRY!!



WELL, HE'S GONE! NOW... HEY!!! HEY!!!!.. GET AWAY FROM THAT FISH TANK!!!

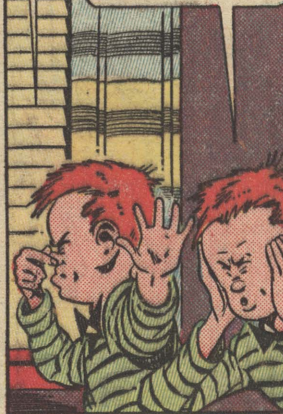


C'MON OVER HERE!.. I'LL READ YOU SOMETHING!! LISTEN!.. "OLD KING COLE WAS A MERRY OLD SOUL..."



NOISERY RIMES!!! :PHEW!!! CAN IT!!

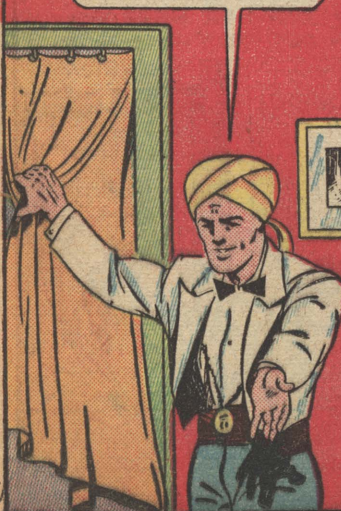
OI! OI! OI!.. THAT DRIVVEL!!! THAT SLOPPY GOO!!



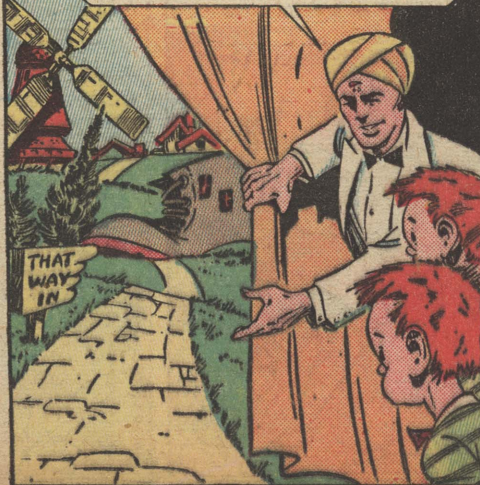
DRIVVEL? GOO? HUH!! YOU WOULDN'T FEEL THAT WAY IF YOU KNEW THESE PEOPLE LIKE I DO!!.. AW, HORSEFEATHERS!! THEY AIN'T REAL!!



OH NO??.. OKAY, SMARTY, I'LL SHOW YOU!!...



I PULL ASIDE MY MAGIC CURTAIN, AND PRESTO, WE'RE IN NURSERY RIME LAND!!



LOOK!! THERE'S THE OLD WOMAN WHO LIVES IN THE SHOE!!... HI, OLD WOMAN!!

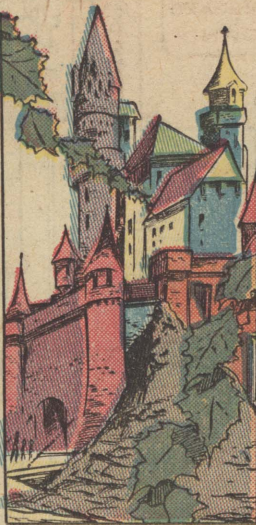




...AND KING COLE LIVES  
OVER THERE!!... LET'S GO  
VISIT HIM!



WICKERY DICKER  
DARE THE BIG  
FLEW INTO THE  
AIR.

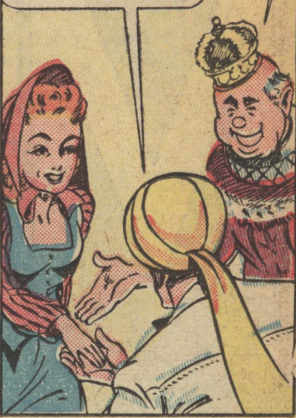


MR. MYSTIC!! WELL,  
LL BE...!! COME  
IN!! COME IN!!



YOU REMEMBER MY  
DAUGHTER, BO-PEEP?

OF COURSE!! HELLO,  
BO-PEEP!!... HOW'S  
YOUR FIANCE?



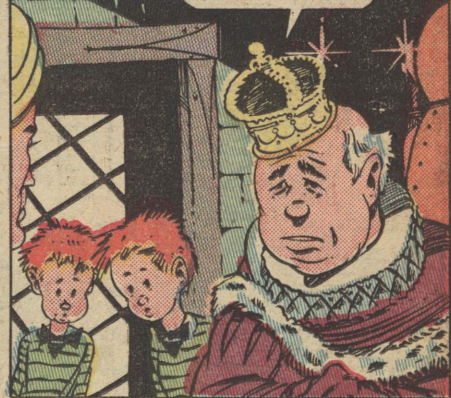
BOBBY SHAFTOE?.. OH,  
BOBBY SHAFTOE'S GONE TO  
SEA, SILVER BUCKLES ON  
HIS KNEE, BUT HE'LL COME  
BACK AND MARRY ME, HAND-  
SOME BOBBY SHAFTOE!!  
'BYE!!... I MUST FIND MY  
SHEEP!!



YOU'VE A GRAND GIRL, KING,  
SHE... HEY!!... WHAT'S THE  
MATTER?!! WHY ALL  
THE WORRY?!



I'VE JUST LEARNED THAT BOBBY  
SHAFTOE'S BEEN CAPTURED BY  
WICKED QUEEN DAB!! POOR BO-  
PEEP?.. I HAVEN'T THE HEART TO  
TELL HER THAT HE'LL NEVER  
COME BACK!!



QUEEN DAB, EH?.. SAY!..  
MAYBE I CAN RESCUE  
HIM!!... COME ON, KIDS!  
WE'VE GOT WORK TO  
DO!!!



MEANWHILE, AT THE CASTLE  
OF WICKED QUEEN DAB, WHO  
RULES ENCHANTED LAND  
AND CHANGES ALL MEN TO MULES  
AND HORSES!



REMEMBER, BEGGARMEN!!.. YOU MUST  
NOT FAIL!!.. ABDUCT THAT SNIP, BO  
PEEP, AND BRING HER HERE, SO  
THAT I CAN DESTROY HER FOR-  
EVER!!









